

Early Intervention Eligibility Criteria

Early Intervention serves children younger than three years of age who have a medical condition that may affect their growth and development, who have a known developmental delay, or who are at risk of developing one. This document will help you determine if a child should be referred to the Program.

1. Children with diagnosed medical disorders known to influence development

Children whose early development is influenced by diagnosed medical disorders that result in varying ranges of developmental delay.

This category includes infants and toddlers whose early development is influenced by diagnosed physical and mental conditions that are known to impact development, including:

Chromosomal Disorders

- Down syndrome
- Trisomies

Neurocutaneous Syndromes

- Sturge-Weber syndrome
- Tuberous sclerosis

Inborn Errors of Metabolism

- Amino acidopathies
- Organic acidemias
- Glutaric aciduria type II
- Very long chain fatty acid storage diseases
- Mucopolysaccharidoses
- Purine/pyrimidine abnormalities (i.e. Lesch Nyhan Syndrome)

Genetic Disorders

- Achondroplasia (dwarfism)
- Apert syndrome
- Angelman syndrome
- Bardet-Biedl syndrome
- CHARGE syndrome
- Cornelia de Lange syndrome
- Fragile X
- Jeune syndrome
- Lissencephaly syndrome
- Menkes syndrome
- Muscular dystrophy
- Noonan syndrome
- Opitz syndrome
- Osteogenesis imperfecta
- Pallister-Killian Mosaic syndrome
- Prader-Willi syndrome
- Rubinstein-Taybi syndrome
- Russell Silver syndrome
- Weaver syndrome
- Williams syndrome

Sensory Impairments, Congenital or Acquired:

- Auditory neuropathy
- Blindness (legally blind or 20/200 uncorrected or 20/70 with best correction)
- Enophthalmos or microphthalmos of the eye
- Hearing impairment (40 dB loss or greater)

- Sensory integration difficulties

Motor Impairments:

- Arthrogryposis / multiplex congenita
- Severe scoliosis

Neurological Disorders:

- Agenesis of the corpus callosum
- Anencephalus
- Arnold-Chiari malformation
- Brain malformation
- Central congenital hypoventilation malformation
- Cerebral dysgenesis
- Cerebral palsy (all types)
- Degenerative progressive neurological condition
- Encephalopathy
- Holoprosencephaly
- Hydrocephaly, congenital or acquired
- Kernicterus
- Neural tube defects such as spina bifida and myelomeningocele
- Microcephalus
- Peri-ventricular leukomalacia
- Porencephalic cyst
- Seizures (poorly controlled or not controlled)
- Spinal muscular atrophy, Werdnig Hoffmann disorder
- Stroke
- Syringomyelia

Sociocommunicative Disorders:

- Asperger syndrome
- Autism
- Childhood disintegrative disorder
- PDD-NOS

Medical Disorders:

- Cleft palate
- Craniosynostosis with syndrome
- Pediatric HIV/AIDS
- Hypoplastic left heart syndrome
- Lung hypoplasia
- Pulmonary atresia
- Respiratory insufficiency or oxygen dependency
- Severe burns
- Very low birth weight (<1,500 grams or 3 lbs 5oz)

Trauma Related Disorders:

- Traumatic brain injury
- Spinal cord injury

Prenatal Influences:

- Fetal alcohol syndrome
- Fetal phenytoin syndrome
- Congenital toxoplasmosis
- Congenital rubella
- Congenital cytomegalovirus
- Congenital herpes
- Congenital syphilis

2. Children with established developmental delays

The category includes infants and toddlers who are experiencing a delay in development in one or more of the following areas: cognitive; physical, including vision and hearing; communication; social or emotional; or adaptive behavior.

Use the following age-based scores when evaluating children for referral to Early Intervention:

Age of Child	Estimated Delay
4 months or less	1 month
5-8 months	2 months
9-12 months	3 months
13-16 months	4 months
17-20 months	5 months
21-36 months	6 months

Children with significant delays in articulation and/or dysfluency that are not developmental in nature may also be referred to Early Intervention.

3. Children who are at risk of developmental delay

This category includes infants and toddlers with a history of prenatal and/or early life events, which increase the probability of delayed development.

Any combination of four or more child or family characteristics listed below qualifies a child for Early Intervention services.

Child Characteristics:

Risk factors associated with growth:

- Intrauterine growth retardation or small for gestational age
- Weight for age, height for age, or weight for height less than 5th percentile
- Weight for age decreased 2 or more percentiles in 3 months for children less than 12 months of age
- Weight for age decreased 2 or more percentiles in 6 months for children over 12 months of age
- Weight for height greater than 95th percentile

Risk factors associated with chronic feeding difficulties:

- Severe colic
- Refusal or inability to eat
- Stressful or intensely conflicted feedings
- Failure to progress in feeding skills
- Inability to feed orally

Risk factors associated with insecure attachment or interaction difficulties:

- Troubled social relationships
- Depression
- Indiscriminate aggressive behavior

Risk factors associated with suspected central nervous systems abnormalities such as:

- Infection such as meningitis or encephalitis
- Trauma such as intracranial hemorrhage or subdural hematoma
- Metabolic abnormalities such as hypoglycemia, seizures associated with electrolyte imbalance, neonatal hyperbilirubinemia (greater than 20 mg/dl), or prolonged acidosis
- Asphyxia such as prolonged or recurring apnea, aborted SIDS, suffocation, hypoxia, meconium aspiration, or near drowning
- Exposure to noxious substances in utero
- Abnormal muscle tone
- Multiple episodes of apnea inappropriate for gestational age
- Abnormal sleep patterns or disturbances
- Persistent multiple signs of sensory impairment or less than optimal sensory or motor patterns

Other Risk Factors:

- Elevated venous blood lead level (≥ 10 $\mu\text{g/dL}$)
- Multiple trauma including confirmed multiple losses, history of abuse or neglect, or multiple placements outside the home
- Mild developmental delay (need to define using age based scores)

Medical Diagnoses, including but not limited to the following diagnoses:

Note: If any of the medical diagnoses are present in conjunction with a developmental delay in one or more of the developmental areas, the child should be referred to Early Intervention.

- Genetic disorders including
 - DiGeorge syndrome
 - Goldenhar syndrome, hemifacial microsomia, oculoauriculovertebral meobious syndrome
 - Pfeiffer syndrome

- Pierre-Robin syndrome
 - Treacher Collins syndrome
 - Vater association
- Sensory impairments including
 - Chronic otitis media (more than 6 months duration)
- Motor impairments
 - Brachial plexus palsy
 - Hand deformity
 - Limb deformity
 - Missing limb
 - Torticollis
- Childhood malignancies
 - Astrocytoma
 - Leukemia
 - Neuroblastoma
 - Retinoblastoma
- Neurologic disorders
 - Erbs palsy
- Medically related disorders:
 - Cleft lip complete
 - Complex cyanotic heart disease
 - Craniosynostosis
 - Cystic fibrosis
 - Esophageal atresia
 - Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
 - Laryngomalacia
 - Severe malabsorption
 - Sick cell disease
 - Tracheoesophageal fistula

Risk Factors for infants and toddlers less than 18 months old (chronological age):

- Gestational age <32 weeks or >44 weeks
- Neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) admission \geq 3 days
- Apgar score less than 6 at 5 minutes
- Hospital or extended care facility stay > 25 days in a six month period

Family Characteristics:

- Maternal age* – Less than 18 at time of child's birth
- Parity* – more than three births before the age of 20
- Maternal education* – less than 12th grade education
- Parental illness or disability
- Lack of social supports for the family
- Inadequate shelter, food, clothing
- Open or confirmed protective services investigation
- Substance abuse

* Maternal characteristics apply to the father if he is the primary caregiver.